S A N A T A N

Pratnakirttimapavrinu
(Let us attempt to unravel the glorious past – *Rigveda*)

Editor
Dr Alok Tripathi

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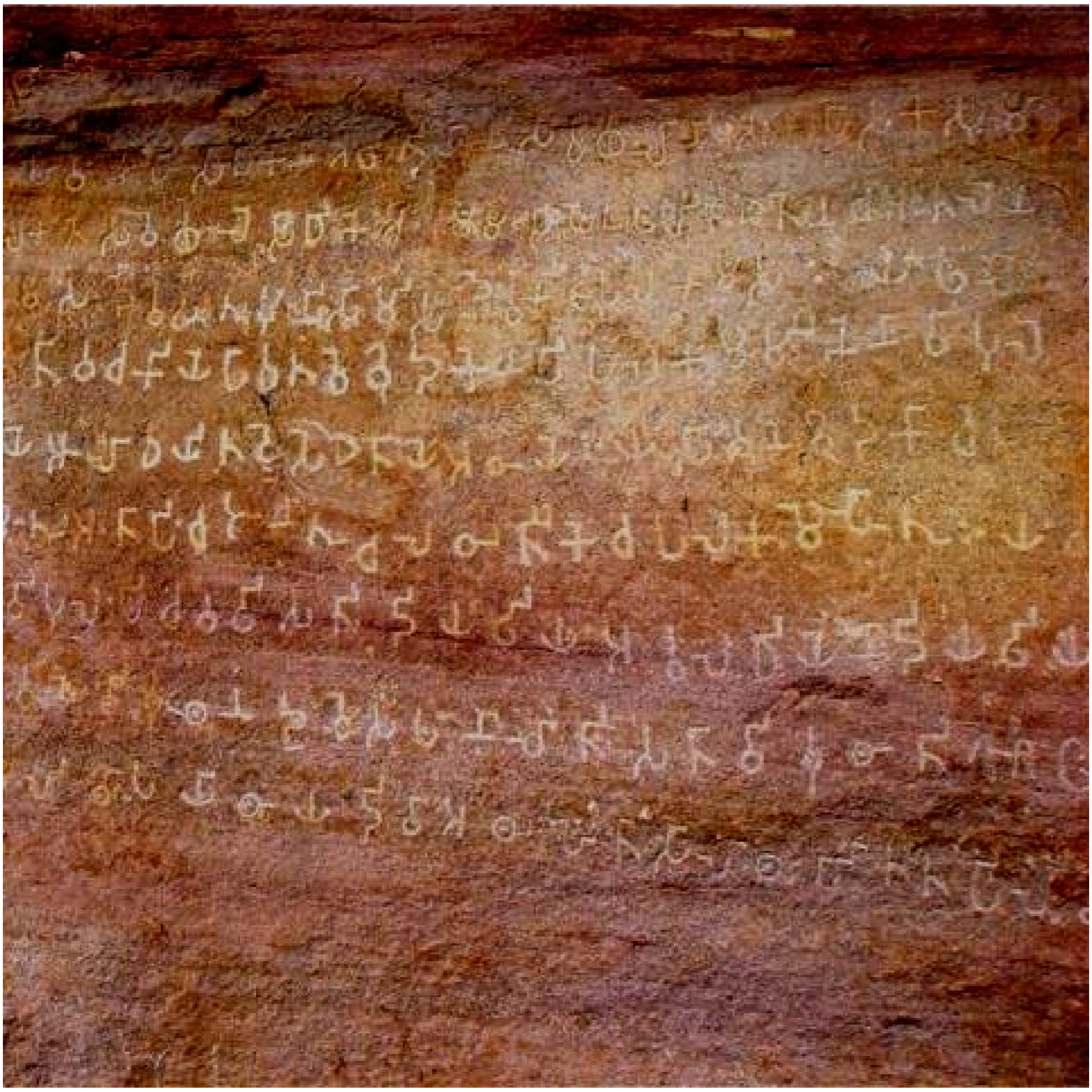

Ghurahupur : Minor Rock Edict of Asoka (source : Jnana-Pravaha)

South **A**sian **N**etwork of **A**rcheologists/academicians for **T**echnical and **A**rtistic **N**urturing

"A positive attitude may not solve all your problems, but it will annoy enough people to make it worth the effort."
- Herm Albright

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EDITORIAL

Dear Colleagues

It gives me pleasure to put this first issue of 2009 on your computers. Now onwards Sanatan will be issued twice in a month and members would receive 24 issues in a year. First issue of the month will contain information received from 1 to 15 and second from 16 to 31.

There has also been a significant decision to publish annual issue at the end of every year, which would be containing selected information from the last 24 issues. This would be brought out in print form so that it can also reach to those who are not receiving Sanatan, and is also preserved in libraries for future reference.

A two page first issue was circulated to less than 60 members on 8.8.8 but with the active sharing of news and views by our members now Sanatan is reaching to more than 1000 people around the world. Further distribution of its copies by the members is unaccounted.

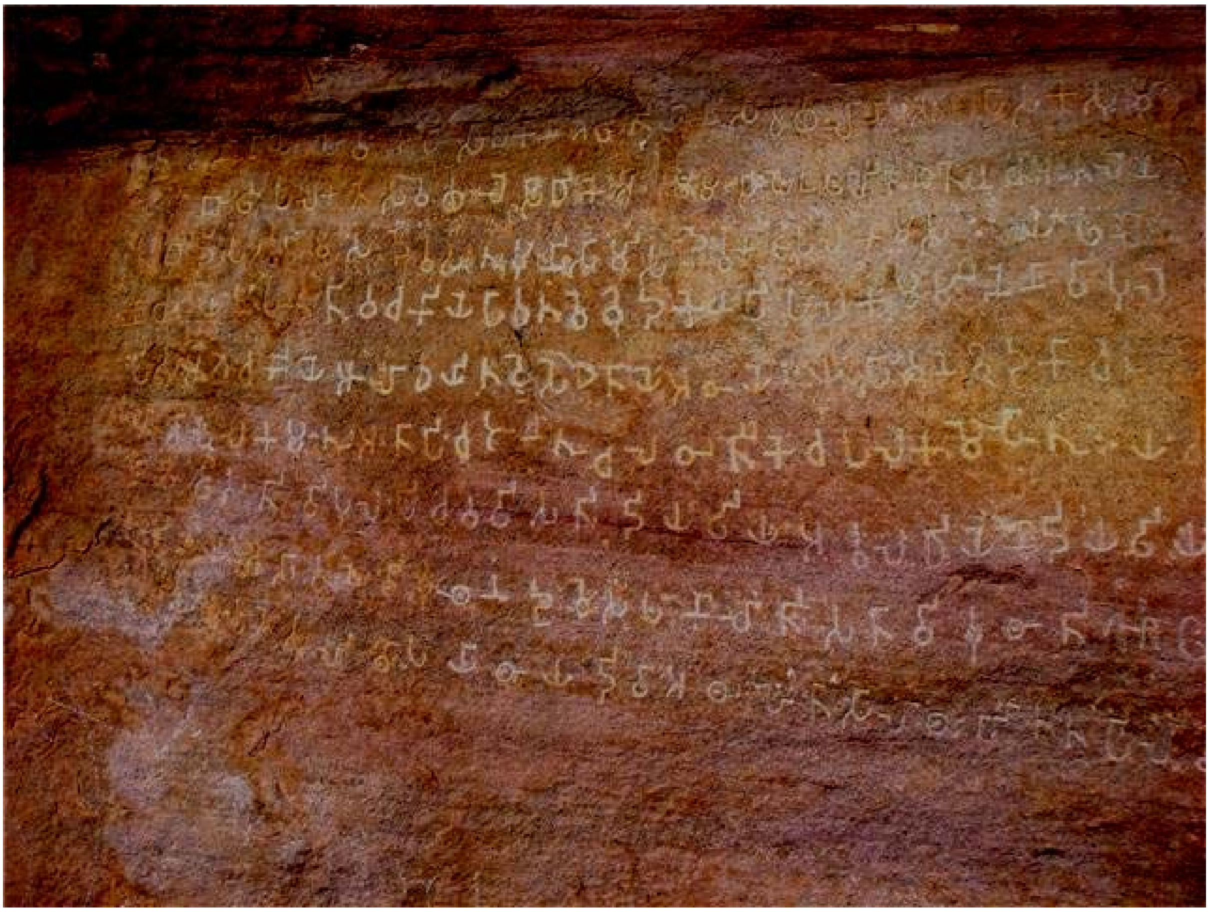
With every issue we are inching closer to our goal where information is shared by all for the benefits of all. The world is changing fast and it demands changes in every sphere of life to be able to move with time. Let us come together for progress and achieving what all we can.

Editor

DISCOVERIES

Minor Rock Edict of Asoka, near village Ghurahupur, Bihar

A Minor Rock Edict of Asoka has been recently discovered in the Kaimur hills near village Ghurahupur in Bihar as per the press statement released by the Jnana-Pravaha, an institution dedicated to art and Indology in Varanasi. The place of find is about 60 km. from Varanasi towards south-east in the Kaimur hills near village Ghurahupur. It is about 5 km. from Saidpur bazar in Bihar, near the border with Uttar Pradesh.



Ghurahupur : Minor Rock Edict of Asoka (source : Jnana-Pravaha)

A photo of the inscription was received from Shri Devi Dayal Maurya, a local teacher. Shri Vinay and Shri Virendra handed over the photograph of the Edict to Dr Niraj Pandey who deciphered the inscription along with Prof. K.K. Thaplyal. Dr Pandey and Shri Samrat Chakravarty of the Jnana-Pravaha, with the assistance of the local persons took more photographs at the site. Cooperation in this regard was also provided by Ms Vimala Poddar, Prof. Kamal Giri, Dr N.P. Joshi and Shri Chandranil Sharma, all from Jnana-Pravaha.

It seems that the natural caves in the Kaimur hills were utilized by the Buddhist monks who made them their dwelling place, particularly during the months of rainy season. This is evident from the short inscriptions, murals, sculpted parts and rock-cut dwelling places. During prehistoric times also they were used by early man who made paintings in some of these caves.

From Saidpur bazar one can come to village Ghurahupur and after leaving behind the primary school one can climb on the hill where the caves are located. The Asokan Edict is inscribed on the rock-surface on the eastern end outside the last cave. The 7.5 m. high rock-shelter has a natural landing more than 4 m. in width and a little longer in length. Asokan Edict is inscribed at a height, little above then eye level, between 2.85 m. to 2.35 m. so that it could be read simultaneously by many people with lesser chances of damage.

The inscription, written in 9 lines in the Brahmi script and Prakrit language on the face of a cave mentions Asoka as *Devanam-piya* who got it inscribed after traveling for *dharma-yatra* when 256 nights were passed. He mentions about his meritorious deeds through which the people of Jambudvipa were united with the *devatas*.

According to the press release by Jnana-Pravaha, the inscription has been deciphered as the First Minor Rock-Edict which has also been found at 18 other sites including the present one with some similarity and some difference. It is pertinent to mention here that D.P. Pandey who had worked on the *Iconography of Sun God* for his D. Litt degree in Leiden under J.Ph. Vogel, had explored this area in 1941-42 and had informed about discoveries of a few inscriptions, some of which were published in the *Epigraphia Indica*. He had also discovered a few early historic sites in the region including Silsila.

Shri Sushil Tripathy had also noticed the present site and in October 2008 when he was taking photographs of the caves, inscriptions and rock-paintings at Ghurahupur, he fell down from the cliff and suffered fatal injuries and could not survive. His findings from this area (*Sanatan* 10: 4) were published in the local issue of daily *Hindustan* on 4th October 2008. Very next day ASI officers were asked to explore the area and significant data was being collected and studied. More information came from Prabhakar Upadhyay (*Sanatan* 12: 4-8). Now the discovery of this Minor Rock Edict of Asoka is before the scholars for critical assessment.

Based on the available photograph inscription starts with "*Devanam piya hevam aha*". In place of '*Chhavachhare*' the word used is '*savachhale*'. In the fourth and fifth lines the inscription has a varied version from others and it reads *"tava chakiye pavatave khudakena pipalakam maminenavipule (pasumate) chakiye aladhayitave sedhataye athaye iyam savane khudakacha* (.)."

A final reading of the full text could be possible only after a comparative reading of the estampage and photographs and site visits by the archaeologists and epigraphists. The officers of the Archaeological Survey of India have been instructed to inspect the site and submit a detailed report along with better photographs so that the inscription could be given due attention and could be studied systematically.

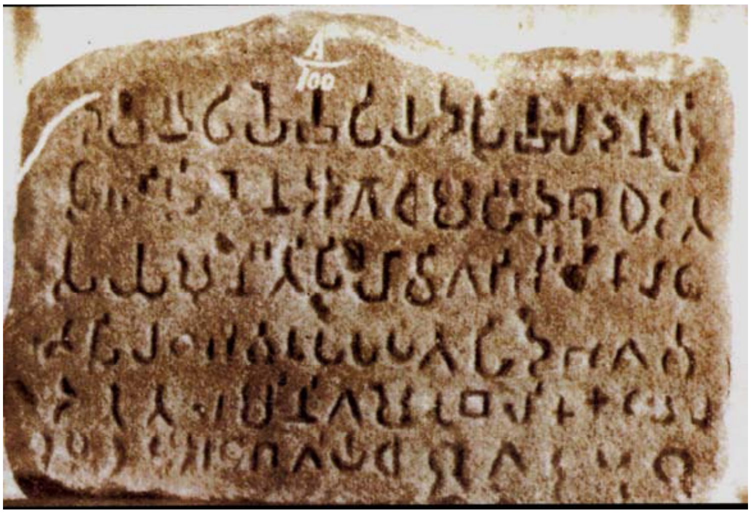
- B.R. Mani
Jt. DG, ASI, New Delhi

Silver Coins, Sihore, Madhya Pradesh

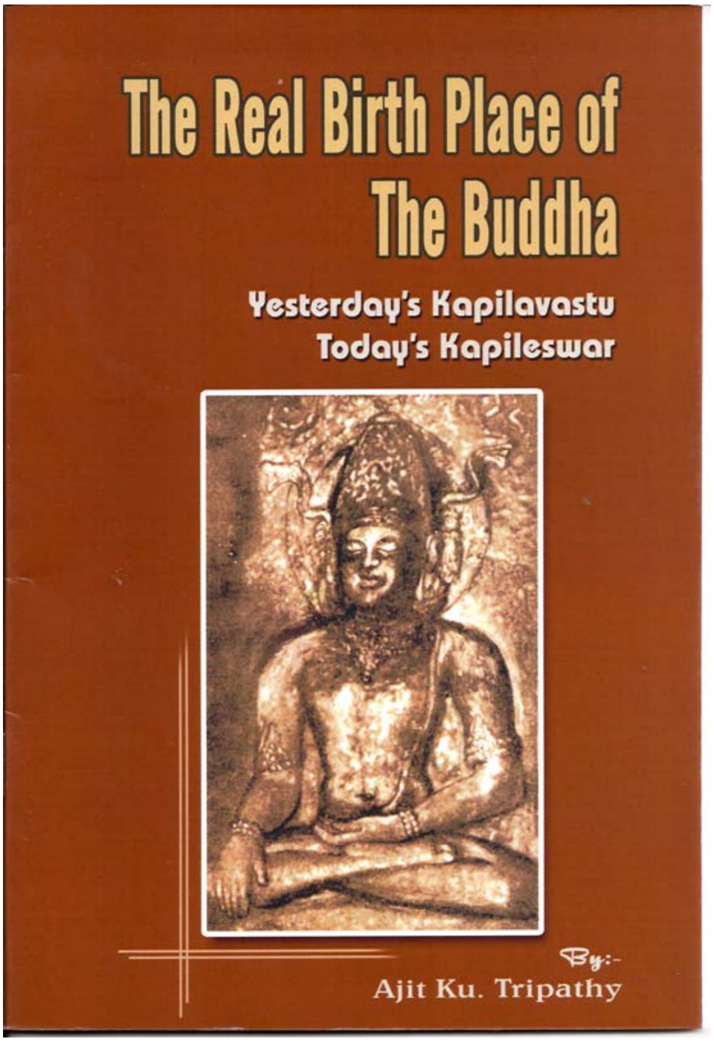
240 silver coins were found during the construction of road from Kosmi to bhuri under Gram Panchayat Bardi in Tahsil Budhni, district Sihore. The coins bear inscription in Arabic. Police has seized the coins and have deposited in treasury. Necessary proceedings under the Treasure Trove Act have been initiated by the Collector.

[source : Raj Express, 3.1.2009]

Birth Place of Buddha near Bhubaneswar in Orissa

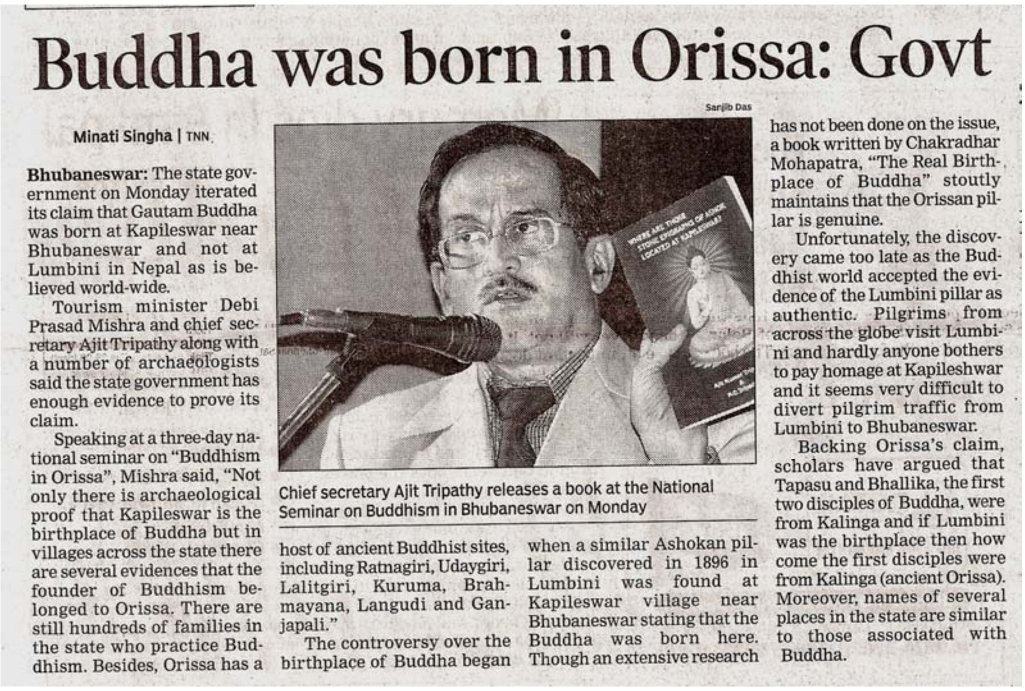


Shri Ajit Kumar Tripathy, Chief Secretary, Goverment of Orissa has revealed archaeological evidence, including an Asokan inscription, suggesting that Buddha was borne at Kapileswar, near Bhubaneswar in Orissa.



He presented this discovery to a large number of archaeologists assembled at Orissa State Museum, Bhubaneswar during the inauguration of joint annual conference of Indian Archaeological Society, Indian Society for Prehistoric and Quaternary Studies and Indian History and Culture Society and national seminar on Buddhism in Orissa, on 29 December 2008. A film prepared by Government of Orissa was also shown to the scholars gathered from different parts of India.

A booklet *The Real Birth Place of The Buddha – Yesterday's Kpilavastu Today's Kapileswar* written by Ajit Ku. Tripathy was also distributed to scholars present on the occasion. Text of the said book is circulated for the benefit of curious readers.



Buddha was born in Orissa: Govt

Minati Singha | TNN

Bhubaneswar: The state government on Monday iterated its claim that Gautam Buddha was born at Kapileswar near Bhubaneswar and not at Lumbini in Nepal as is believed world-wide.

Tourism minister Debi Prasad Mishra and chief secretary Ajit Tripathy along with a number of archaeologists said the state government has enough evidence to prove its claim.

Speaking at a three-day national seminar on "Buddhism in Orissa", Mishra said, "Not only there is archaeological proof that Kapileswar is the birthplace of Buddha but in villages across the state there are several evidences that the founder of Buddhism belonged to Orissa. There are still hundreds of families in the state who practice Buddhism. Besides, Orissa has a host of ancient Buddhist sites, including Ratnagiri, Udaygiri, Lalitgiri, Kuruma, Brahmayana, Langudi and Ganjapali."

The controversy over the birthplace of Buddha began when a similar Ashokan pillar discovered in 1896 in Lumbini was found at Kapileswar village near Bhubaneswar stating that the Buddha was born here. Though an extensive research has not been done on the issue, a book written by Chakradhar Mohapatra, "The Real Birthplace of Buddha" stoutly maintains that the Orissan pillar is genuine.

Unfortunately, the discovery came too late as the Buddhist world accepted the evidence of the Lumbini pillar as authentic. Pilgrims from across the globe visit Lumbini and hardly anyone bothers to pay homage at Kapileshwar and it seems very difficult to divert pilgrim traffic from Lumbini to Bhubaneswar.

Backing Orissa's claim, scholars have argued that Tapasu and Bhallika, the first two disciples of Buddha, were from Kalinga and if Lumbini was the birthplace then how come the first disciples were from Kalinga (ancient Orissa). Moreover, names of several places in the state are similar to those associated with Buddha.

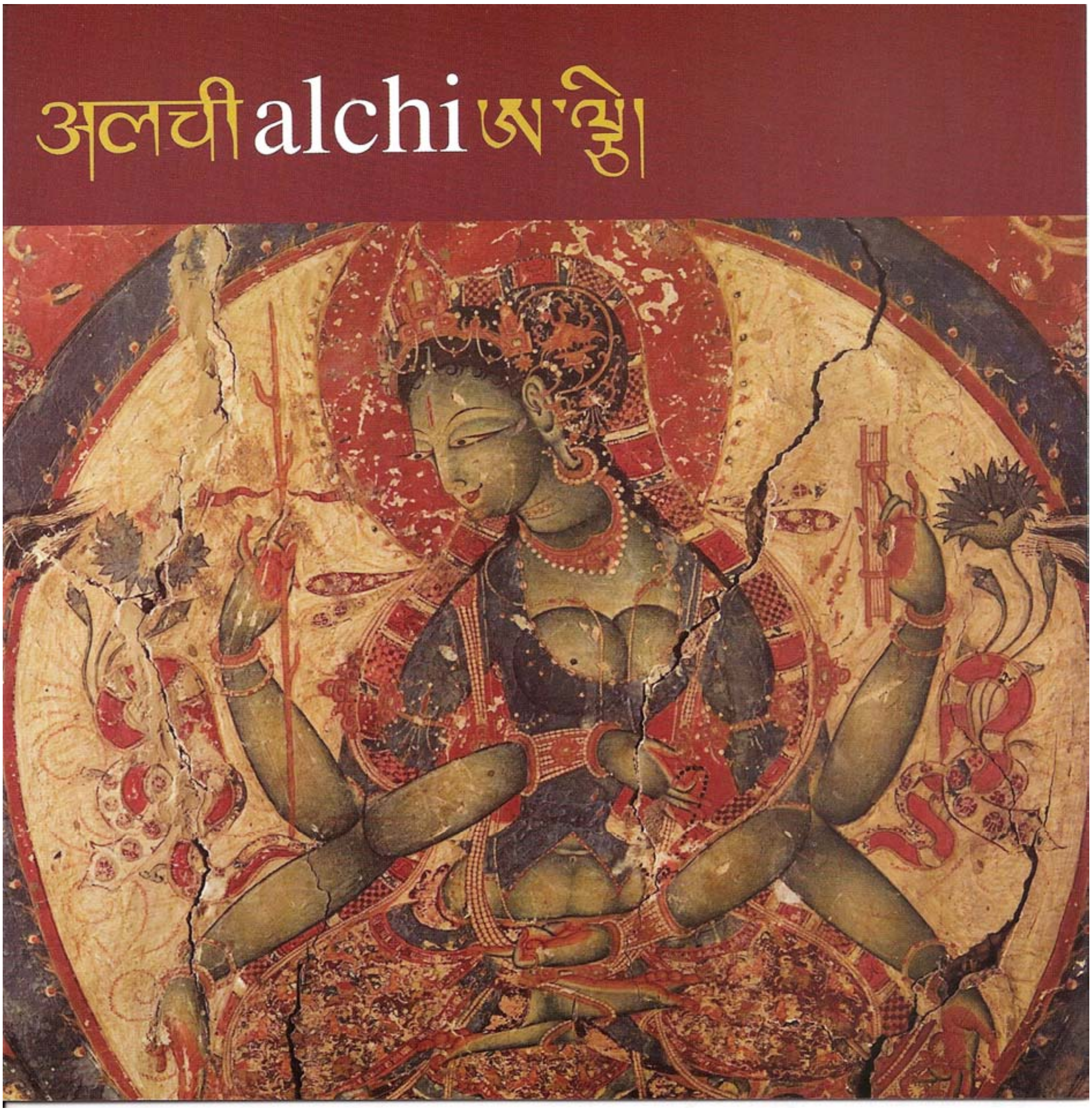
Sanjib Das

Chief secretary Ajit Tripathy releases a book at the National Seminar on Buddhism in Bhubaneswar on Monday

EXHIBITIONS

Alchi : The Living Heritage of Ladakh

Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Leh; National Museum, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, and Likir Monastery, Leh-Ladakh has organized a photo-exhibition *Alchi : The Living Heritage of Ladakh* at National Museum, New Delhi.



The exhibition containing photographs of monuments, sculptures and famous murals in monastery, was inaugurated by Shri Jawhar Sircar, Secretary Culture, Government of India in presence of Dr Kapila Vatsayan on 5th January 2009. The exhibition is open for public from 10.00 – 17.00 hrs. except Monday.

CONSERVATION

Brick Dome, Champaner, Gujarat

There are some big domed structures scattered in and around Champaner. One such brick dome near Vada Talav at Champaner is a 'protected monument'. It is a square domed chamber devoid of any grave. This monument was built during the reign of Gujarat Sultanate in 15th-16th century CE.

Raised on ashlars masonry plinth it is having four arched openings at all four cardinal direction. The top is roofed by a big central dome with finial and four small corner domes made of lime plastered bricks. The outer plinth of the dome has decorated mouldings. Originally the brick dome was plastered from inside as well as from outside as evident from the remains of plaster with decorative patterns on the exterior.

Vadodara Circle of the Archaeological Survey of India is carrying out its conservation. In the first stage vegetation growing around the monument was removed. The monument has also been provided chain link fencing for protection. After improving the surrounding

Brick Dome : Before conservation (source : ASI)

Brick Dome : After vegetation clearance (source : ASI)

Brick Dome : During conservation (source : ASI)

conservation of the main structure is being taken up. Damaged part of the monument was repaired and underpinning with old type bricks on parapet wall in lime mortar has also been attended to. The work is in progress.

- Sivananda V.
S.A., ASI, Vadodara

RESEARCHES

Chandella king Nannuka

Khajuraho : Lakshmana temple (source : Alok Tripathi)

Khajuraho in district Chhatarpur of Madhya Pradesh has several temples representing various stages of development. These temples are fine examples of Chandella art and architecture and have been studied by archaeologists, historians, artists and art-historians for over 170 years but still many important aspects need to be studied and understood satisfactorily. While many beautiful sculptures carved on these temples have been described by various scholars differently many others which were not considered important still need due attention of the researchers.

120 panels fixed in the upper *anterpatra* molding on the *jagati* of Lakshmana temple were considered to be decorative scenes are actually unique sculptures depicting the Chandella history. Dhanga's inscription of V.S. 1011 (954 CE) is fixed in the temple contains genealogy of Chandella rulers. Based on it sculptures of various Chandella kings have been identified.

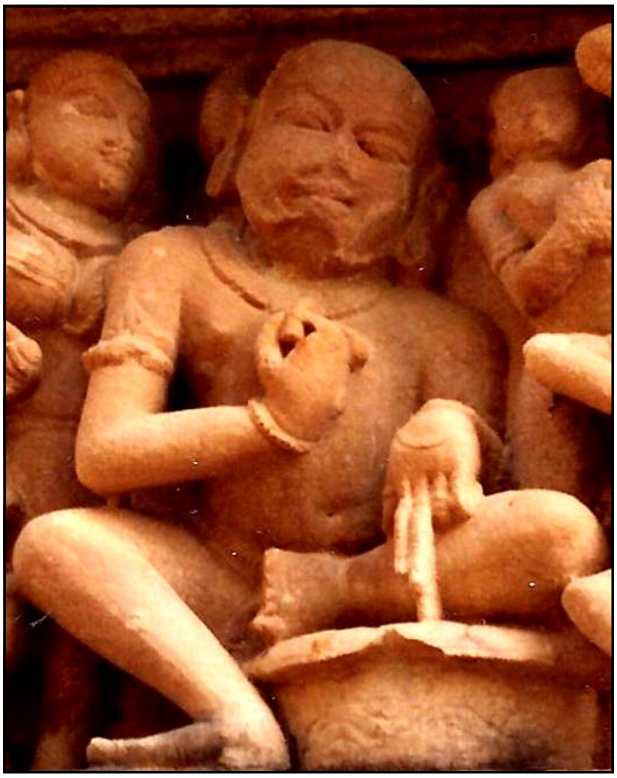
Khajuraho : Panel on *jagati* of Lakshmana temple (source : Alok Tripathi)

Khajuraho : Inscription of Dhanga in Lakshmana temple
(source : Alok Tripathi)

In inscriptions and other records, Nannuka is always referred to as the first king of the Chandella dynasty. Verses 10-11 of the inscription mention about the first king of the dynasty - *shri nanuko bhunnripah* - and mention his qualities.

"As he conquered many hosts of enemies (and) was shaped like the god of love, his name, made known by the spread of the laudations uttered by groups of delighted panegyrists, at once took its place in the minds of deer-eyed women whose bodies were emaciated (with love of him), while despair unobstructed forcibly took hold on crowds of antagonists."

The first king of the Chandella dynasty, Nannuka, is carved in panel 22. The king is shown seated on a decorated *uchchasana*. He is shown most prominently in the panel with beard. Except a few, kings are carved bearded, as it was a symbol of royalty. His right hand is folded and held against his breast and left hand is resting on the folded left leg. His fingers are exceptionally long and adorned with rings. Two beautiful, deer-eyed (*mrigdrisham*) women, are shown behind him. The kings are always accompanied by a number of attendants. Two attendants, one *chauri* bearer, and the other holding a fan are carved behind the king.



Khajuraho : King Nannuka

Khajuraho : Delighted panegyrists

In front of the king is carved a group of delighted panegyrists (*anandita-vandivrinda*) as mentioned in the verse 11 of the inscription. These five delighted panegyrists are singing in his praise. Two of these panegyrists are standing and playing *manzira* and drum. The third one is sitting and playing *veena*. The fourth one is dancing and the fifth is uttering laudations.

Khajuraho : Attendant with fan

The panels fixed on the *jagati* of the Lakshmana temple are not ordinary but the historic scenes depicting Chandella history. Comparison of these sculptures with information given in the inscription helps to identify the kings and other episodes. This carved band on the frieze of *jagati* is transformation of inscription in sculptures. The sculptors have accurately carved the kings mentioned in the inscription. Unaware of the historicity of the scene, scholars always misinterpreted this historic scene as a 'dance teacher' or 'dance class'. Panegyrists were mistaken as dancers and musicians and the illustrious king Nannuka, as a dance teacher.

Khajuraho : *Chauri* bearer

- Alok Tripathi
S.A., ASI, New Delhi

OPPORTUNITIES

Dr Vishnu Sridhar Wakankar Samman 2008-09

Government of Madhya Pradesh has instituted an annual National Award for Indian Archaeologicl studies and Conservation of Cultural Heritage in the memory of noted archaeologist Dr Vishnu Sridhar wakankar. The award carries an amount of Rs. 1,00,000, a citation and a plaque of honour. The award is given to active Indian citizen/institution for their constructive contribution, creativity and outstanding achievements in the field of conservation of heritage and culture. The norms for selection of recipient of the award will be high level creativity, outstanding achievements, continuous perseverance and undoubted and undisputed contribution in the respective field.

Nominations/recommendations may be sent in prescribed proforma to the Commissioner, Archaeology, Archives and Museums, Department of Culture, Government of M.P., Bhopal by 2 February 2009.

Architectural Records, Inventories and Information Systems for Conservation - ARIS09, 2 September - 2 October 2009, ICCROM, Rome, Italy

ICCROM has announced that the training course on Architectural Records, Inventories and Information Systems for Conservation (ARIS09) will be held in Rome from 2 September to 2 October 2009. This course is offered by ICCROM (International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property) and The Getty Conservation Institute.

The ARIS09 Course aims to improve architectural conservation practice through the use of methods and tools of recording, documentation, inventories and information management. This architectural conservation course will be based on cases and experience drawing upon the vast wealth of cultural material that the city of Rome and other cases offer for the advanced study of conservation issues.

Applications are invited from conservators, architects, planners, engineers, archaeologists, historians, topographers, photogrammetrists, surveyors, cartographers, restorers, and other conservation professionals involved in the field of recording, documentation and inventories through information management systems.

Good conservation decisions are made with knowledge of the significance, history, past interventions, and current conditions of cultural resources. This international course on *architectural records, inventories, and information systems for the conservation of cultural heritage* will address the needs, methodology, and techniques for acquiring and using this knowledge. The course will draw upon the vast wealth of cultural material in Rome and will be taught by leading experts in the field. Records, inventories, and information management tools are continuously being developed and must be considered as a fundamental part of the conservation process.

The ARIS09 Course aims to improve architectural conservation practice by - Approaching architectural records and information management as tools in conservation for planning, practice, access and dissemination; Reviewing the theory of documentation and recording and its relation to specific situations; Encouraging appropriate methodologies and tools for recording, documentation, inventories and information management; Addressing recording practice based on specific case studies; Promoting discussion among specialists in these fields; Enabling participants to transmit documentation knowledge and skills to those in their home countries.

The course will feature a range of learning strategies that will draw upon participants´ own professional knowledge while adding new information and skills through readings, discussions, and a number of collaborative practical exercises. The course will include a required preparatory phase prior to arrival at ICCROM. This preparatory phase will allow participants to increase their background knowledge in key topic areas through readings and exercises that they will undertake while in their home countries. The course will be structured around three main blocks of knowledge, through four weeks of study, on specific matters relating to -

Architectural Records: theory and practice for generating records will include direct, topographic, GPS, photogrammetric, and 3D laser scanning techniques, and archival research (historic, archaeological, structural, condition);

Inventories: the course will stress the notion of `inventory´ as the core element of information systems to be able to establish links between the various aspects and fields relating to architectural documentation processes;

Information Systems: planning, practice, access and dissemination of information (computer graphics, multimedia) will be emphasized, in particular principles, design and management of records in data base systems (GIS) and methods to process architectural records and related information.

This international course is designed for a maximum of 18 conservation professionals. The course will be for conservators, architects, planners, engineers, archaeologists, historians, topographers, photogrammetrists, surveyors, cartographers, documentalists, and other conservation professionals involved in the field of recording, documentation and inventories through information management systems.

Preference will be given to candidates working in positions in which they can share, transmit and disseminate the skills and information gained during the course. Preference will also be given to applicants from ICCROM Member States. Candidates are required to provide evidence of computer knowledge in the use of software for: Internet access, database management, CAD-based graphic tools, and digital image management.

Teaching staff will be composed of recognized heritage conservation professionals having both practical/theoretical experience and knowledge in training. They will represent a broad international perspective in their fields of expertise.

The fee for the course is 900 Euro and the official language of the course will be English. A certificate of attendance will be awarded to participants who satisfactorily complete the course.

Participants will be responsible for their round trip travel costs to and from Rome and their accommodation and living expenses during the course. Participants should plan for a minimum allowance of Euros 1500 for living expenses. Candidates are strongly encouraged to seek financial support from sources such as governmental institutions, employers and funding agencies. ICCROM may be able to offer a limited number of scholarships to selected candidates who have been unable to secure funding.

Application form can be obtained from the ICCROM web site: www.iccrom.org. Application together with full professional Curriculum Vitae should reach to aris09course@iccrom.org by 16 February 2009.

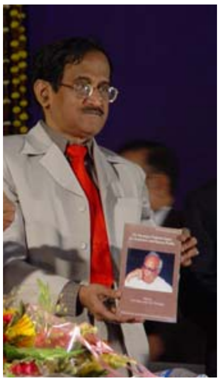
CONFERENCE REPORT

Joint Annual Conference of IAS, ISPQS and IHCS, Bhubaneswar

Joint annual conference of Indian Archaeological Society (IAS), Indian Society for Prehistoric and Quaternary Studies (ISPQS) and Indian History and Culture Society (IHCS) and national seminar on *Buddhism in Orissa* was organized at Orissa State Museum, Bhubaneswar from 29 – 31 December 2008.

Conference was inaugurated on 27th December by Shri Debi Prasad Mishra, Minister for Tourism, Government of Orissa. Shri Ajit Tripathy, Chief Secretary, Government of Orissa in his address revealed archaeological evidence suggesting that the Buddha was borne at village Kapileswar near Bhubaneswar in Orissa. He also provided a booklet containing evidence in support of his claims, to all the participants. A number of publications - Journal of all the three academic societies and other publications brought out by these societies and the Orissa State Museum were also released on the occasion. Absence of representatives of ISPQS and IHCS in the inaugural of joint conference was conspicuous.

It was followed by presidential addresses and a series of memorial lectures, which continued on 28th December. Research papers were presented in three parallel sessions by each society followed by combined valedictory.



Perhaps, it is right time for all the academicians and researchers to give a serious thought about organization of academic conference and better utilization of limited time for fruitful and serious academic debates. Any academic conference must utilize most of its time for presentation on researches and serious discussions on them. Formal functions and other events are although important but can not be allowed to take major part of the limited conference time. There are going to be diverse views on this issue and members' opinions would definitely help orgnisers of such conference and seminars.

MUSEUMS

Metro Museum, New Delhi

Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has set up the first metro museum in South Asia at one of its fully functional Patel Chowk metro station at New Delhi. The museum displays models of metro train and Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM), photographs of the work, different helmets, soil samples from different areas, a tooth from TBM, and detailed write up on various aspects of metro rail. It tells about the history of DMRC and how metro has revolutionized traveling in the city. Touch screen kiosks provide technical information on various operations of the metro system in simple language. The museum opened for public from 1 January 2009.

[source : TOI, New Delhi]

UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY

UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage 2001

On 2 October 2008, Barbados became the 20th state to accept the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage 2001. According to Article 27 of the convention, it came into force on 2nd January 2009, three months after the date of deposit of the 20th instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.

The first meeting of State Parties will be held at Paris on 26-27 March 2009.

SEMINARS/ CONFERENCE

Foreign Impact on Indian Culture, Varanasi, March 2009

The people of India have a common culture flowing throughout history as a running stream governed by certain values and ideas. It were these guiding principles which kept the plurality of Indian society intact and allowed its people to perform their own religious practices, in spite of the fact that the Indian rulers fought one another within the boundaries of the sub-continent for political and territorial gains. Indeed, the Indians were and are such a civilized people that they hardly crossed the limits of the sub-continent for the expansion of their empire. But this attitude of theirs always proved to be very disadvantageous because the foreign invaders dared inroads into India and the battles were fought on the Indian soil.

Indians came into contact with flock of foreigners - Greeks, Parthians, Scythians, Kusanas and Hunas - who came here as invaders and were completely absorbed in Indian society, adopting the language, religion and custom of the land and retaining no trace of their foreign origin. This clearly shows the liberality of the Indian society. But there are two bands of other foreign invaders, namely Muslims and Christians, who did not adopt Indian culture but stood against it so that they could propagate the principles and customs of Islam and Christianity respectively. Both of these intruders, particularly the Muslims, succeeded in their task and influenced almost every sphere of Indian culture. While the impact of Greeks etc. on Indian culture may somewhat be seen in ancient India, that of Muslims and Christians is discernible in the Medieval and Modem India respectively.

Thus, to evaluate the *Foreign Impact on Indian Culture* Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology, Banaras Hindu University is going to organize a National Seminar from 25 to 27 March 2009. Further details can be obtained from conference_aihc@rediffmail.com .

APPOINTMENTS

Archaeological Survey of India

Shri Ram Saran, Director (Archaeology) retired on 31 December 2008.

Smt Anshu Vaish, Director-General, ASI has been promoted to the post of Secretary. She would be joining Department of Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Shri K.N. Srivastava, an officer of 1978 batch of Indian Administrative Services, has been appointed as the Director-General, Archaeological Survey of India. He will assume the office after 31 January 2009.

ANNOUNCEMANT

Annual Issue of *SANATAN*

Since the very beginning, many of our members have desired that *Sanatan* should also be brought out in printed form. You would appreciate that it is not practical to print every issue and send it to several hundred professionals every fortnight. Besides expenditure, delay in doing so would defeat the very objective of making recent information available to a large number of professionals quickly.

However, keeping the quality of valuable contributions being received and members persistent desire it has been decided that *Sanatan* may bring out its annual issue in printed form containing important contributions.

All the members are therefore requested to keep sending their contributions for inclusion in bulletin and the annual issue.

OBITUARY

Shri L.S. Rao
(8.9.1952 - 8.1.2009)

Shri L.S. Rao, Superintending Archaeologist, Excavation Branch, Nagpur passed away on the night of 8 January 2009 after a massive heart attack.

Shri Laxmikant Srinivas Rao was born on 8.9.1952 in village Gungera, district Koppal in Karnataka. He joined the Archaeological Survey of India on 7.10.1976 in Aurangabad Circle as Technical Assistant. On 7.10.1992 he became Deputy Superintending Archaeologist through UPSC and was posted at Mumbai, Nagpur and Trivendurm.

During his service he worked in different fields and different parts of the country. He conducted village-to-village survey in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh, and problem-oriented surveys in Kachchh district of Gujarat, Jaintia Hills in Meghalya, west coast of Karnataka. Besides, he carried out architectural survey of Chola temples in Mandya and Coorg districts and structural temples of Imperial Rashtrakutas in Bagalkot, Belgaum and Gadag districts of Karnataka.

Shri Rao was a good excavator and was posted at Excavation Branch, Nagpur since 28.9.2000. During last three decades he participated in several excavations including Daimabad and Panhale Kazi (Maharashtra), Ramapuram (Andhra Pradesh), Banawali (Haryana) Dholavira (Gujarat), and also directed important archaeological excavations at Jaintia Hills (Meghalaya), Baikal Fort (Kerala) and Bhirrana (Haryana). Excavations at Bhirrana has revealed some good evidence shedding fresh light on Harappan culture. He made his contribution to various branches of art and archaeology and projected his works in diverse areas of research.

VIEWS

I am interested in re-enacting the sailing of the Persians from Iran to Diu in India before Landing on the shores of Sanjan. In this context I an interested in finding out if the 1000 year old boat found at Kadakarapally in Cherathalla district near Cochin in Kerala is a part of the flotilla which set sail from Persia to India.

Can you put me in touch with like minded individuals? It would be of interest to archeologists to read about the 1000 year old sailboat and the stone pedestal found in it, wrongly believed to be an anchor. Please respond with whatever information you may have at hand and for the balance guide me to leads to where I can get the information

- Aspi Gagrat, Mumbai

Earlier, in *Sanatan,* there were debate about disparity in senior and junior scholars in the field. The views by a young scholar, in last issue, to form an association of students of archaeology seems to me is the out come of such treatment only. I would like to urge that every scholar remains a student for his entire life. Stopping the process of learning is nothing but academic death for any scholar. Hence all the scholars are students and every academic association or society should be treated as the association of students. Making several such societies is not the solution of the problem. Young scholars should join professional organizations and by the virtue of their work and scholarship demand parity with any other scholar in the field.

- T.A.R. Gopalan, Chennai

Sanatan is maintained its regularity and disseminating useful information. Large number of good quality illustrations make it more interesting. Perhaps, it is the fastest way of distributing information about your researches to a large number of scholars in Asian region.

- Mahendra Singh, Gurgaon

Disclaimer – *Sanatan,* is an interactive group of professionals for academic pursuits. It is an independent group with no affiliation with any institution or organization, what so ever, in any manner. The views offered by the members are their own and shared here with intend to help colleagues working in related fields. All efforts are solely aimed to preservation of culture and heritage. Material offered here can be used by all for development of the discipline with due acknowledgement.

Send your views, information, materials to sanatan08082008@gmail.com for sharing.